

REMARKS

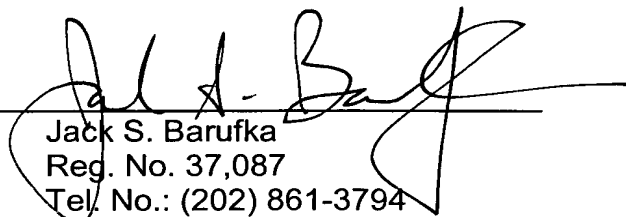
The application has been amended to improve readability, to conform better to U.S. practice, and to ensure that the claims are not construed under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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## ABSTRACT

Aj  
Optical elements such as multilayered EUV mirrors are provided with protective capping layers of diamond-like carbon (C), boron nitride (BN), boron carbide ( $B_4C$ ), silicon nitride ( $Si_3N_4$ ), silicon carbide (SiC), B, Pd, Ru, Rh, Au,  $MgF_2$ , LiF,  $C_2F_4$  and TiN and compounds and alloys thereof. The final period of a multilayer coating may also be modified to provide improved protective characteristics.

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